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HOUSE MEMORIAL 7

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A MEMORIAL

**HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE SEVEN ASTRONAUTS WHO SERVED ON THE
SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA.**

**WHEREAS, the members of this chamber are grief-stricken at
the loss of the space shuttle Columbia and her seven astronauts
on Saturday, February 1, 2003; and**

**WHEREAS, the women and men who perished aboard Columbia
embodied the very best qualities of mankind. Their
intelligence, diligence and valor led to their selection for
the space program and their presence on Columbia; and**

**WHEREAS, today we pause not only to remember this tragedy,
but we also pause to honor the achievements of seven exemplary
people; and**

WHEREAS, let us recite the names of the seven astronauts:

Rick D. Husband, age forty-five and the commander of

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1 Columbia. Commander Husband was a colonel in the United States
2 air force. He was selected as an astronaut in 1994 and prior
3 to this mission had logged two hundred thirty hours in space.
4 His home was Amarillo, Texas;

5 William C. McCool, age forty-one and the pilot for
6 the mission. He was a commander in the United States navy and
7 a former test pilot. Commander McCool became an astronaut in
8 1996, and this was his first space flight. His home was
9 Lubbock, Texas;

10 Michael P. Anderson, age forty-three and the payload
11 commander for Columbia. Lieutenant Colonel Anderson was an air
12 force man who grew up as the son of an air force man. Selected
13 as an astronaut in 1994, he had previously logged over two
14 hundred eleven hours in space. His home was Spokane,
15 Washington;

16 Dr. Kalpana Chawla, age forty-one and a mission
17 specialist. Dr. Chalwa emigrated to the United States from
18 India in the 1980s and became an astronaut in 1994. She was an
19 aerospace engineer and had previously logged more than three
20 hundred seventy-six hours in space. She grew up in Karnal, a
21 small town in the Punjab region of India;

22 David M. Brown, age forty-six and a mission
23 specialist. He was a captain in the United States navy and
24 served as a naval aviator and a flight surgeon, a rare
25 combination. Captain Brown became an astronaut in 1996. This

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1 was his first space flight. He grew up in Arlington, Virginia;

2 Laurel Salton Clark, age forty-one and a mission
3 specialist. She was a commander in the United States navy and
4 a naval flight surgeon. She had also served as a naval diving
5 medical officer aboard submarines. Commander Clark became an
6 astronaut in 1996. This was her first space flight. She lived
7 in Albuquerque, New Mexico as a child and has family who still
8 reside there. Her home was Racine, Wisconsin; and

9 Ilan Ramon, age forty-eight and the payload
10 specialist for Columbia. Colonel Ramon served in the Israeli
11 air force and was a decorated war veteran. He was selected as
12 Israel's first astronaut in 1997. This was his first space
13 flight. His home was Tel Aviv, Israel; and

14 WHEREAS, they are sons and daughters, mothers and fathers,
15 brothers and sisters and astronauts, and they lost their lives
16 while reaching for the stars;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it honor the
19 memory of the seven astronauts who served on the space shuttle
20 Columbia; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives
22 of the state of New Mexico extend its deepest sympathy to the
23 families of the seven astronauts and to the colleagues with
24 whom they served at the Lyndon B. Johnson space center in
25 Houston, Texas; and

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